



The Gift of Fire



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Chapter 1 by Molly G

Now, as you know fire can be a gift or a curse. Fire can keep people warm or burn them to ashes. Fire is beautiful, terrifying, destructive, renewing and life-giving, all at the same time. So, when one winters morning, a child named Fire was born, you can see how people would be concerned. This child would be a gift or a curse, to help or to destroy. The world's fate rested in the lap of a tiny baby.

Fire ran toward the school bus, her long red hair flying out in her wake. "Stop!" she yelled. Someone must have seen her, for the next thing she new was that the bus had slowed to a stop. Breathing a sigh of relief, she climbed into the bus and slipped into the empty seat next to Hannah. Hannah, a tall girl with strong features, smiled at her a bemused expression on her face. "Late again Fire?" she asked.

"Yeah, didn't realise what time it was." Fire replied, punching her friend in the arm. They settled into their seats and amused themselves with meaningless chatter.

Fire dumped her school bag down in the hallway, sighing in relief as her shoulders were relieved of the weight. She made her way to the kitchen, fishing out some chins from the pantry. She ran

up the stairs to her room, fully intent on settling down to watch a thriller while eating chips. As she passed her parents' room, she heard the words "I can't do it... you know I can't!"

"Yes honey, but what choice do you have?"

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"Such a big responsibility for such a young girl!" at this Fire grunted. She assumed they were talking about her. She was a fourteen year old now, they'd better start treating her like one!

"We've done our best. I think she's capable now" **thank you dad**

Fire opened the door. Her mum put on a brave face and said

"It's time darling"

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